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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Albania
SUBJECT Military and Economic Information on Vlone
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

1. The steamship EL SEGUNDO has been making regular trips to Vlone. It has been discharging cargoes of war materiel and food for the Albanian Army and taking on oil. The war materiel and foodstuffs originate in Czechoslovakia and since September 1948 the oil has been sent to Czechoslovakia in return.*
2. There is an oil dump located 500 meters from Vlone in the direction of Ujt'e ftohte. The oil pumping station is located at Gefyra Viossa (Vijose) in the direction of Vlone; it is guarded by two companies of Albanian Army troops.
3. Anti-aircraft guns, about 50 in number, have been placed on the heights of Vlone. They are of Soviet make and of two kinds; the first is of small diameter and its shells reach a height of 5,000 meters; the second is of large diameter firing shells reaching greater heights.
4. The entire harbor of Vlone has been mined with the exception of the unloading points. The mines are laid in two rows. The movement of civilians in the harbor area is prohibited. All boatmen operating in the harbor have special passes, and are in the confidence of the Communist Party.
5. There is no cracking plant for oil in Vlone. There is reported to be a small cracking plant in Koutsovan (sic). The daily production of oil at Koutsovan (sic) reaches 40,000 kgs. At the two pumping stations there are 200 workers and 10 engineers, of whom three are Italian, five Albanian, and two Yugoslavs.
6. There are many Italian engineers in Vlone and also in Durres. The harbor control office of Vlone is directed by Soviet officers. It is impossible to ascertain the number of these officers since they are not assigned permanently.
7. In Vlone there are factories for the production of cigarettes, soap, nails, macaroni and olive oil.

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8. It is rumored in Vlone that last month a motorboat carried away gold belonging to the Albanian Government; the gold was supposedly being sent to Czechoslovakia.

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 The EL SEGUNDO was reported at the end of December 1948 to be at Beirut and expected to return shortly to the Black Sea.

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